

# Caregivers for the Young Adult

Micaela Cornis-Pop, PhD, CCC-SLP  
Rehabilitation Strategic Healthcare Group

# **Thinking outside the box: the polytrauma experience**

- **Objectives:**
- Care giving for the combat injured young men and women
- Care giving as a positive experience
- Proactive support for caregivers

# Care giving for the combat injured young adults

- Abrupt onset
- Unsuspecting caregivers
- Where is our community?
- Memory and family ties
- Cognitive and behavioral problems
- Where are the services? Rehabilitation vs. maintenance

# Care giving as a positive experience

- Is it all just doom and gloom?
- What do we know about the positive aspects of care giving?
- Why do families continue to provide care despite the level of burden?
- The power of the positive expressed emotions

# Proactive support for caregivers

- Caregivers are a population at risk
- Provide services upfront and provide them consistently
- Ongoing needs assessment with ensuing plan for action
- Consistent, competent, empathetic case management